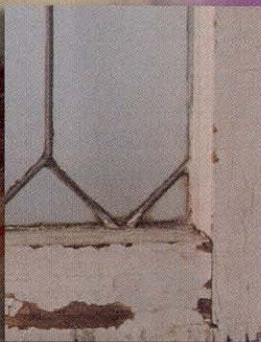
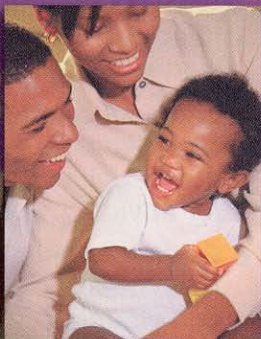


**Keep your
child safe
from lead**

**For
Parents**



"Knowing what's up"

Allisha

"I saw my son put his mouth on a dusty windowsill. I knew I had to get him a lead test, but I was worried I couldn't afford it."

Dee Dee

"My daughter didn't seem sick. But my sister said I should get her tested. Just in case. I couldn't believe they found lead in her body."

Kevin

"My grandson was tired a lot, but I didn't think it could be lead poisoning. I was wrong. Now he's having trouble in school. Testing for lead sooner might have prevented that."

What's your story?
Could your child
be at risk for
lead poisoning?

Read what happens
to Allisha, Dee Dee,
Kevin and their
loved ones on the
back cover.

Please read:

Talk to your health-care provider! This folder is not a substitute for the advice of a qualified health-care provider. • The photos in this folder are of models. The models have no relation to the issues presented.

Lead poisoning affects many African American children.

Any child can get lead poisoning from swallowing or breathing:

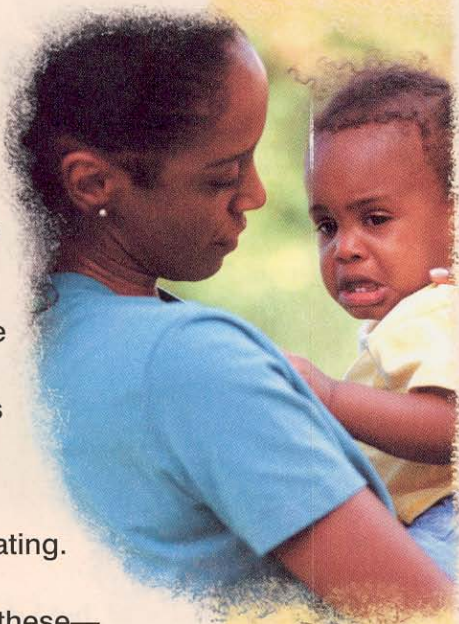
- lead paint dust or lead paint chips
- air, soil or water that has lead.

If your child has lead poisoning,

he or she may not seem sick. But some children may have:

- stomach problems
- trouble sleeping
- less energy
- difficulty concentrating.

Talk to your child's doctor if you notice these—or any other—signs.



Your child is at risk for lead poisoning

if he or she:

- lives in an area that has many older buildings*
- lives in or often visits an older home or a recently remodeled home*
- has a brother or sister with lead problems.

Regular lead tests are the best way to find out if your child has lead in his or her body.

*Buildings or homes built before 1950—and areas around them—carry a very high risk. Buildings or homes built before 1978 may have lead paint.



Too much lead may damage the brain and nervous system.

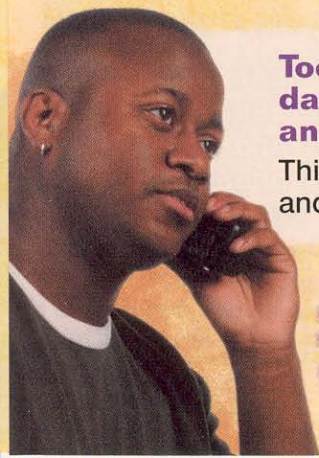
This can lead to learning and growth problems.

For more info:

1-800-424-5323

www.epa.gov/lead

Lead tests are quick and easy. A small blood sample is all it takes.



Protect your child.

To help lower the risk of lead poisoning:

- Have a professional test your paint, water and soil for lead.
- Keep things that may be dirty or have lead out of your child's mouth.
- Look out for and report paint that's chipped or flaked. If you own your home, call your local health department for advice.
- Feed your child foods with lots of iron (lean meat), calcium (dairy products) and vitamin C (oranges). Cut back on fried and fatty foods.
- Clean your home regularly with a wet mop and damp cloths.
- Wash your child's hands before meals and bedtime. Wash your hands before touching his or her food.



Children age 6 and younger—and unborn babies—are most at risk for lead poisoning.

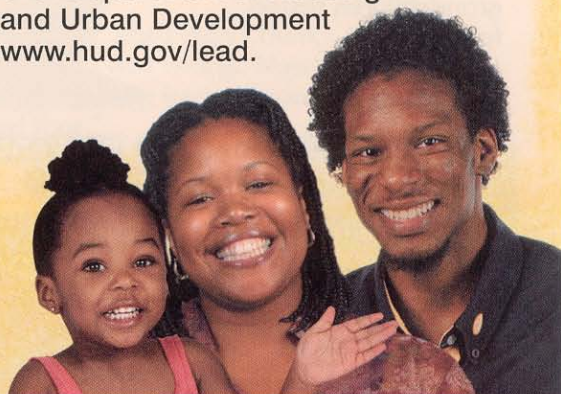
Find out about lead tests.

You may be able to get low- or no-cost lead tests for your child. Contact:

- your child's doctor or a local health clinic
- your local or state health department
- your local childhood lead poisoning prevention program
- your local WIC (Women, Infants and Children program) or Medicaid office.

Learn more about lead poisoning and testing from the:

- EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline
1-800-426-4791
www.epa.gov/water
- National Lead Information Center
1-800-424-LEAD
(1-800-424-5323)
www.epa.gov/lead
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
www.hud.gov/lead



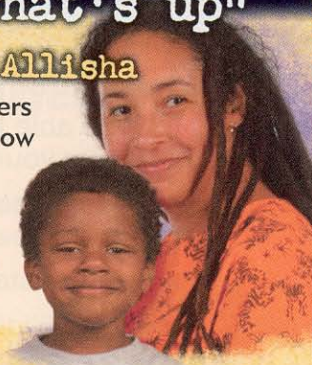
Take action to help keep your family safe from lead poisoning.



"Knowing what's up"

Allisha

"A local health clinic offers lead tests at no cost. Now I have my son tested regularly. And I clean our apartment more often with damp cloths and a wet mop."



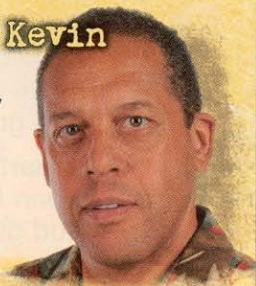
Dee Dee

"Now I'm making sure my daughter gets to all her follow-up tests. Lead poisoning is serious. What's scary is it doesn't always make a child look sick, like with my daughter."



Kevin

"My grandson is doing better, but he's still not 100%. I'm getting all my other grandchildren tested for lead."



**Lead poisoning can be prevented!
What's next in your child's
story? It's up to you.**

**State of Connecticut
Department of Public Health
Lead Poisoning Prevention and
Control Program
(860) 509-7299**